

1fw 2661



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 4329.2699

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
HIROMUNE SUETSUGU ET AL.)
)
Application No.: 09/993,574) Group Art Unit: 2661
)
Filed: November 27, 2001) Examiner: Unknown
)
For: RING INTERCONNECTION) Confirmation No.: 7435
NETWORK SYSTEM, NODE)
EQUIPMENT, NETWORK)
MANAGEMENT EQUIPMENT,)
AND PATH SETTING METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.

Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English document, an English language version of a European Search Report issued by the European Patent Office, dated April 1, 2005, in a counterpart European application citing the document and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed. In addition, an English-language abstract of the non-English language document is attached.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.


Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: _____

7/14/05

By: _____


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Reg. No. 31,744

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/993,574
Filing Date	November 27, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hiromune Suetsugu
Art Unit	2661
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	4329.2699

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-6,499,117 B1	12/24/02	Tanaka	
		US-5,999,288	12/7/99	Ellinas et al.	
		US-5,920,542	7/6/99	Henderson	
		US-5,550,805	8/27/96	Takatori et al.	
		US-5,442,623	8/15/95	Wu	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP 1 031 198 B1	4/16/03	Nortel Networks Limited		
		JP 2000-209203	7/28/00	NEC Corp.		Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		European Search Report issued by European Patent Office, dated April 1, 2005, for European Patent Application No. 01309939.5	

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.